Better working of the Panchayat.

66. Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they have called for from the new officer for the Panchayats any scheme for the better working of the Panchayat;

(b) whether any such scheme has been submitted to the Government by the new officer after his appointment;

(c) if the answer to question (b) is in the affirmative, will they be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the same?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—(a) No.

(b) No.

(c) No answer is necessary in view of the answer to (b) above.

Child Marriage in the State.

67. Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) if they are aware that several British Indian subjects come and solemnise child marriages in the State, evading the provisions of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, which is in force in British India;

(2) whether the Government is aware of the necessity of legislation prohibiting child marriages in the State;

(3) whether they intend introducing any Bill in the Council to the same effect; and if so, when?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(1) No.

(2) No.

(3) No.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Will the Government be pleased to call for statistics in the matter?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—It is not possible; no statistics are maintained.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Is it not possible for the Government to call for statistics by referring to the castewar statements?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No, it is not possible.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Am I to understand that no report of such marriages has come to the notice of the Government from the newspapers?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Government cannot look into all these. Government do not make a special note of such things.

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